



# DRAFT

The Legislative Platform reflects the priorities adopted by Board of Directors through the Strategic Plan, Five-Year Work Plan, annual budget, and other planning documents. It is designed to serve as a guide for East Valley Water District's legislative advocacy efforts.

# 2025-26 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

*District Headquarters: 3111 Greenspot Road, Highland, California 92346*

*The Legislative Platform summarizes the organizational policy position regarding legislative and regulatory matters of concern.*



The Governing Board provides direction through this Legislative Platform that allows for optimal engagement in the development and implementation of rules that impact the community.

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Maintaining this document allows for the timely response to issues identified as important and consistent with the District's legislative priorities. Staff will seek the Board's guidance on issues that are not addressed within the adopted Legislative Platform.

## Roles & Responsibilities



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Review, advise and adopt the Legislative Platform.
- Participate in meetings with legislators, staff and other public officials, as needed.
- Testify at legislative and regulatory hearings on behalf of the District, as needed.
- Refrain from lobbying, advocating or taking a position contrary to the Board's adopted position. Board Members may, as allowed by law, take positions as an individual citizen so long as the correspondence clearly identifies that it is the position of the individual rather than the District.



### GENERAL MANAGER / CEO & STAFF

- Monitor, analyze and take positions on potential actions that could impact East Valley Water District.
- Coordinate advocacy efforts with the Board of Directors to promote the interests of the District to decision makers at all levels of government.
- Participate in meetings with legislators, legislative and administrative staff members, trade associations, coalitions, Board of Directors and other public officials, as needed.
- Seek timely Board of Directors approval of positions as needed for complex issues of significant concern where deviation from the principles may be advisable for community benefit.
- Update the Legislative Platform, as approved by the Board of Directors.
- Work with Legislative Advocates and Consultants to maintain Legislative Platform, as needed.
- The General Manager/CEO and designated staff may participate in legislative advocacy on behalf of the Board of Directors, so long as it is consistent with the Strategic Initiatives and Legislative Platform.
- Provide an exceptional level of transparency, ethics, and customer service in representing the District's interest to all State officials, staff, and agencies.



### LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE

- Monitor, review, and advise staff of State legislation, budget impacts, funding opportunities, and issues which may directly or indirectly impact the District.
- Obtain and monitor all bills, resolutions, files, journals, histories, etc. and share with District as appropriate.
- Communicate the District's positions on key actions to Members of the State Legislature and staff, as well as Committee and State agencies (as appropriate) and other interest groups.
- As necessary, attend hearings and provide testimony on behalf of the District. Where appropriate, arrange opportunities for the District to participate in hearing testimonies or submission of comments.
- Actively establish a strong identity and presence in Sacramento on behalf of the District. This effort shall be reinforced by day-to-day involvement in the regulatory, and legislative actions on behalf of this organization.
- Provide an exceptional level of transparency, ethics, and customer service in representing the District's interest to all State officials, staff, and agencies.



# Legislative & Regulatory Platform

## Consider Supporting

- Policies and funding opportunities that facilitate the implementation of alternative energy elements at District facilities to offset operational needs and or provide supplemental electricity to the larger energy grid.
- State legislation that focuses on technologically and economically feasible residential and commercial water use efficiency.
- Federal and State development of bond or general fund-supported funding programs for water supply development, including new surface and groundwater storage, water quality, recycled water, and conservation-related programs and efficient, fair implementation of such programs.
- Federal and State legislation that provides a streamlined approach and funding opportunities to assist in the process of septic-to-sewer conversion efforts.
- Policies limiting the use and manufacturing of per and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances commonly received in wastewater collection/recycling infrastructure.
- Federal and State efforts that ease the path to development of recycled water resources.
- Legislation that advocates mitigating operational costs to EVWD and/or its ratepayers, thereby enhancing water affordability.
- Legislation and regulatory action that supports the successful construction of the Delta Conveyance, or successor project in a timely manner.
- Policies and funding opportunities that assist disadvantaged communities with low-income rate assistance but do not undermine affordability for all ratepayers and Proposition 218 and/or impose administrative or communications burdens that are disproportionate to the potential benefit to low-income ratepayers.

## Consider Opposing

- State legislation that seeks to limit or alter the authority and fiduciary role of the Board of Directors to manage the water and wastewater systems, impose unreasonable unfunded state mandated programs, or increase fees, property-related charges or taxes on District customers.
- State legislation that would inappropriately assert the authority of the Legislature to alter or condition existing authority to construct, operate and maintain State Water Project facilities in order to convey water across the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Additionally, those that would negatively impact voluntary agreements reached relating to this statewide effort.
- State legislation that would hinder the exercise of existing District authority such as public contracts, procurement, rate and fee setting, financial administration, public records, and human resources.
- State legislation that would result in the implementation of a requirement which is duplicative or inconsistent with current water/wastewater regulations.
- Federal and State legislation and regulations that hinder the ability of the District to protect and secure critical infrastructure from cyber or physical threats and damages.
- Federal and State legislation to establish Public Health Goals and Maximum Contaminant Levels outside of the procedures set forth in the Federal and California Safe Drinking Water Acts.
- The expansion of broad/nonlocalized water conservation and water use efficiency program mandates that unreasonably constrain the Board of Directors to implement restrictions at the local level and therefore increase rates to customers.
- State legislation that would establish a statewide or locally implemented fee or tax on water use.
- Regulatory and legislative actions that would compromise the existing protections awarded to historical water rights.
- Legislation that implements requirements based on developing technology and markets which lack a competitive bidding environment.

## Positions

Taking a public position can help advocate the District's stance on a piece of legislation or regulation. The District may consider, but is not limited to, the following public positions:

### SUPPORT

The support position is the District's public display of agreement with the current piece of legislation. Any bill receiving this designation aligns with the current Legislative Platform and serves in the best interest of the District, Board of Directors and ultimately customers.

### OPPOSE

The oppose position states the District's strong concerns with how the legislation is currently drafted and the negative impacts to the District's customers. Bills receiving this position will need to be significantly amended or altered to receive any adjustment or support from EVWD.

### SUPPORT/OPPOSE IF AMENDED

The support if amended and oppose if amended positions allow the District to express concerns with the current text in a drafted piece of legislation but also demonstrates to the author a willingness to collaborate on correcting/altering the bill.

### WATCH

A watch position will be applied to all water and wastewater pieces of legislation that the District is currently monitoring but has not taken a public stance on the bill. This position could be in place as the language of the bill is being drafted and the impacts to the District are either unknown or minor.

## Monitoring Tiers

Due to the significant volume of legislation drafted every year, the District has established a classification system to prioritize bills and the level of engagement required for each bill. This classification is determined by the General Manager/CEO and staff and is meant to provide clarity, flexibility, and a clear demonstration on priorities of the District. A bill's tagged monitoring tier can be adjusted throughout the legislative session as language is added/deleted or other factors adjust the priority of a bill. These tiers include the following:

### Tier 1

This tier is the highest priority for the District and one where staff will express a public position for a bill. A description of the bill will be included in a weekly briefing to the Board of Directors along with any position or status changes. Public positions can be expressed via individual letters, coalition letters and/or legislative advocacy appropriate for the circumstance.

### Tier 2

This tier is a high priority for the District, without the District taking a public position on the legislation. These bills have the potential to have a high impact on the District and customers.

### Tier 3

This tier allows staff to monitor a bill that as currently written will have a low impact on the District and customers.